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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Border Guard Units

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Training of Border Guard Personnel

1. [redacted] there is a training school for non-commissioned officers and officers of border guard units located in Sofia.
2. Corporals who have attended at least the 9th and 10th classes, (i.e., 2nd and 3rd classes of Gimnaziya), are eligible for the school. Those completing the six-month course graduate as first lieutenants.
3. The training course for border guard corporals lasts nine months. Prerequisites are completion of the 7th grade, i.e., pro-gimnaziya graduates, and selection by the unit commander. [redacted]

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Basic Training in Border Guard Units (Date of Observations: 25 November 1949 to 12 March 1950)

4. There is close order drill one hour a day, three days a week.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. Weapons training was given one hour a day, three days a week in the following:
  - a. Soviet "Vintovka" rifles;
  - b. Soviet 7.62 mm Shpagin submachine guns;
  - c. Soviet 7.62 mm Degtyarev light machine guns;
  - d. German 7.62 mm "M-34" light machine guns; and
  - e. German 9 mm "Schmiezer" submachine guns.
  
6. From 25 November 1949 to 12 March 1950 one field exercise each was given in the following:
  - a. Deployment of squads for defense;
  - b. Deployment of platoons for defense;
  - c. Advance and assault of platoons; and
  - d. Deployment of the company for defense and its advance and attack.
  
7. Fifteen-minute lectures were given daily by the political officer of the training unit on the following topics:
  - a. International politics;
  - b. Internal and international political situation of Bulgaria;
  - c. Political administration of the USSR and other countries;
  - d. Theoretical Communism; and
  - e. Biographical sketches of people such as Lenin, Dimitrov, Chervenkov and Stalin.

Training in Border Tactics (Date of observation; 25 November 1949 to 12 March 1950)

8. Theoretical and practical training was given in each of the following procedures;
  - a. Patrolling: Two soldiers patrol parallel to and 300 meters from the border; the second soldier keeps within sight of the first;
  - b. Duties of the post guard are as follows:
    - (1) During the night: watches for signal flares requesting assistance from patrols; answers by firing a white flare and alerts the corporal of the guard;
    - (2) During the day: guards the post; answers a three-shot "help" signal with one shot and alerts the corporal of the guard;
  - c. Procedure for apprehending attempted border crossers is as follows:
    - (1) A patrol of two soldiers waits in hiding until border crossers approach within 2-3 meters; one of the soldiers commands them to halt without exposing himself;
    - (2) If the refugees halt, the same soldier searches them and ties their hands while protected by the second soldier still in hiding;
    - (3) If the refugees do not halt, they are fired upon.
  - d. Corporal of the guard duties are as follows:
    - (1) Briefs patrols on operational plan, recognition signals and use of signal flares;
    - (2) Maintains a 24-hour watch without relief.
  - e. Procedure for combined ambush and patrol operation is as follows:
    - (1) Two to five soldiers establish an ambush behind the patrol line;
    - (2) When, as in training, there are two border crossers, those in ambush allow the first to pass but apprehend the second;

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- (3) The first border crosser is then approached by the patrol.
- f. Procedure for forming an ambush at a stream bed is as follows:
- (1) Two to three soldiers hide themselves in the stream bed at a "few" meter intervals; they challenge the border crossers as they enter the stream bed;
  - (2) Other soldiers are hidden on both sides of the stream to protect the challengers;
- g. Skirmishing parties are organized by a post leader on receiving word that border crossers are in the vicinity; they form a diminishing circular cordon about the area; and
- h. An observation team is composed of two men; one of them observes the adjacent border area with binoculars while covered by the other posted 4-5 meters behind him.

"Yantra 20" Border Guard Training Komandatura (Date of Observation: 25 November 1949 to 12 March 1950)

9. The "Yantra 20" Border Guard Training Komandatura is attached to 18 Infantry Regiment and occupies part of 18 Infantry Regiment barracks located 200 meters south of the Yantra River and 1,000 meters west of the Drenovo-Gorna Oryakhovitsa railroad line on the outskirts of Turnovo.
10. The barracks of the "Yantra 20" Border Guard Training Komandatura and 18 Infantry Regiment are located in a 500 x 300 meter area surrounded by a brick wall. (See Appendix A ). 25X1
11. Training of the unit took place within the barrack area, at "Sveta Gora" hill two kilometers east of the barracks and at "Kartal" west of the barracks.
12. The armament included the following:
  - a. About 800 "Vintovka" rifles;
  - b. About 54 German 7.62 mm. "M-34" light machine guns;
  - c. About 162 "Shpagin" submachine guns; and
  - d. An unidentified number of 7.62 mm. "Degtyarev" light machine guns.
13. The storage depots of the unit are at an unknown location outside of the barrack area.
14. The "Yantra 20" Border Guard Training Komandatura consisted of about 800 men in six companies of three platoons, each composed of three squads.
15. Some of the officer personnel of the "Yantra 20" Border Guard Training Komandatura were:
  - a. Major SHULEV, Commander of the battalion; Communist Party member;
  - b. First Lieutenant KMETOV, Commander of 1 Company; Communist Party member;
  - c. First Lieutenant TSANOV, Commander of 2 Platoon, 1 Company; Communist Party member; and
  - d. Sergeant DOCHKOV, Commander of 1 Platoon, 1 Company.

T/O of Border Guard Units (Date of Observation: 12 March 1950 - 20 September 1952  
See Appendix B)

16. Headquarters of the border guard units are located in Sofia. The commander is Major General TSANOV.
17. Headquarters of Border Guard Otryads (known as "Sektor" until the summer of 1951)  
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- a. Kyustendil (designation not known);  
 b. Petrich (designation not known);  
 c. Lyubimets (designation not known);  
 d. Malko Turnovo (designation not known); and  
 e. Elkhovo, [redacted] 25X1
18. Attached to the headquarters of Border Guard Otryad, [redacted] are the following 25X1  
 units:  
 a. Training Komandatura, complement 300 (designation not known); and  
 b. Reserve Company (designation and complement not known).
19. Headquarters of Border Guard Komandatura attached to Border Guard Otryad, [redacted] 25X1  
 [redacted] is as follows: 25X1  
 a. Varnik village (N4152E2629) (designation not known);  
 b. Svilengrad (designation not known);  
 c. Fakiya village (N4212E2703) (designation not known); and  
 d. Voden village (N4205E2653), [redacted] 25X1
20. Attached to the headquarters of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] are the 25X1  
 following units:  
 a. Service squad; and  
 b. Reserve Zastava.
21. Border Guard Zastava attached to Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] are as 25X1  
 follows:  
 a. "Orsl"  
 b. "Sinchete"  
 c. "Bor"  
 d. "Sokol"
- Border Guard Otryad, [redacted] Elkhovo 25X1
22. Barracks (See Appendix "C");
- a. Headquarters building is located about one kilometer southwest of the railroad station; arms depot, dormitory, officers' offices and supply office are in a 1-story, 10 X 6 meter building; the otryad commander occupies the second floor of a 2-story, 6 X 6 meter, whitewashed building located 4-5 meters north of headquarters building;
- b. Provision depot is in the first floor of a rented residence located 1,500 meters southeast of headquarters;
- c. Headquarters of the Training Komandatura (designation not known) attached to the Border Guard Otryad, [redacted] is located in a 2-story, 10 X 8 meter, white 25X1  
 washed building 2,000 meters east of the otryad headquarters; this building was formerly a primary school;
- d. One kilometer northwest of the Training Komandatura headquarters is a 1-story, 10 X 8 meter, whitewashed building occupied by reserve forces attached to Border Guard Otryad, [redacted] 30 meters north of this building is a 10 X 5 meter 25X1  
 dormitory and stable; and
- e. The infirmary and garage is 3.5 kilometers southwest of the Training Komandatura headquarters in a 8 X 6 meter 1-story building.

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23. Officer personnel of Border Guard Otryad, [redacted] 25X1
- a. Major (fnu) ZHELEV - Commanding Officer; born about 1907-1908; average height, round face, stout;
  - b. Senior First Lieutenant (fnu) PUSHKAROV - Assistant Political Officer since 1951; [redacted] 25X1
  - c. Senior First Lieutenant (fnu) PULEV - Assistant Commanding Officer;
  - d. First Lieutenant (fnu) STOYANOV - Officer in Training Komandatura attached to Border Guard Otryad, [redacted] (specific job not known) since April 1952; prior to April 1952, Assistant Political Officer in "Orel" Border Guard Zastava attached to Border Guard Komandatura. [redacted] 25X1
  - e. [redacted] an unidentified Soviet Lieutenant Colonel is stationed at Komandatura headquarters in Elkhovo. Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] Voden Village 25X1
24. This Border Guard Komandatura is attached to Border Guard Otryad, [redacted] Elkhovo. 25X1
25. The barracks are located in Voden (See Appendix "D");
- a. Headquarters is located 8-12 meters north of the People's Council and the primary school buildings in the northern part of voden; housed in a 2-story, 5 X 8 meter, white-washed brick building; intelligence and political offices are on the first floor; headquarters commander is on the second floor;
  - b. About 200 meters southeast of headquarters is a 2-story, 6 X 6 meter brick building; the supply and arms depot is on the first floor; clinic, ward for patients, supply office and radio station are on the second floor;
  - c. A food depot is located in the first floor of a residence located 400 meters south of headquarters; the owner of the house lives on the second floor; and
  - d. About one kilometer east of headquarters is a 2-story, 7 X 8 meter whitewashed building; 12 horses are kept in the first floor; a dormitory for soldiers is on the second floor.
26. The Service Squad consists of several soldiers, each armed with "Vintovka" rifles. The commander is Sergeant Marin STOILOV.
27. The Reserve Zastava consists of 25 soldiers armed with three heavy machine guns (type not known), 12 "Spagin" submachine guns and 13 "Vintovka" rifles. The commander is Sergeant (fnu) PULEV.
- Officers in the Headquarters of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
28. [redacted] the following officers in the headquarters of the Border Guard Komandatura
- a. Captain (fnu) DIMOV - Commander of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
  - [redacted] the former commander of this unit was (fnu) BAYRAKTOROV (current whereabouts not known);

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- b. Senior First Lieutenant (fnu) KOLEV - Assistant Political Officer of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted]
- c. First Lieutenant (fnu) KHRISTOV - Headquarters Commander, Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
- d. First Lieutenant (fnu) DIMITROV - Assistant Commander of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
- e. First Lieutenant (fnu) CHERNOKOZHEV - In charge of DSNM (Dimitrovski Soyuz na Narodnata Mladezh; Dimitrov's Union of the People's Youth) groups in Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
- f. Senior First Lieutenant (fnu) KOLYANOV - Unit Security Officer, probably RO (Razuznavatelen Otdel; Investigation Section) of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
- g. First Lieutenant (fnu) VULCHEV - Area Security Officer for civilian population of Golyamo Sharkovo (N4203E2650), Malko Sharkovo (N4206E2649) and Sitovo (N4203E2647) villages; probably RO; [redacted] 25X1
- h. First Lieutenant (fnu) PANDURSKI - Area Security Officer for civilian population of Golem Krushevo (N4211E2657), Stefan Karadzhovo (N4206E2649), Bolyarevo (N4209E2648) and Mamarchevo (N4206E2648) villages; probably RO; was a Border Guard soldier at Elkovo in 1950; attended officers' school for Border Guard units in Sofia in 1951 [redacted] 25X1
- i. First Lieutenant (fnu) GEORGIEV - Intelligence Officer, probably RO, of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
- j. First Lieutenant Kiran Nedelchev KIRANOV - Supply Officer of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
- k. First Lieutenant (fnu) BELEV - Political Officer of Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted]; and [redacted] 25X1
- l. Stoyka PACHEVA - Typist in Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
- Border Guard Zastavas Attached to Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1

29. The following Zastavas are attached to Border Guard Komandatura, [redacted] 25X1
- a. Border Guard Zastava "Orel";
- (1) Located 1,500 meters from the border, eight kilometers south of Golyamo Sharkovo village in the woodland called "Tricheshmi";
- (2) Complement, 60 men in three squads;
- (3) Commander, First Lieutenant (fnu) PENCHEV - [redacted] 25X1
- (4) Weapons included three "M-34" light machine guns, 27 "Shpagin" submachine guns and 30 "Vintovka" rifles.

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## b. Border Guard Zastava "Sinchets":

(1) Located 1,500 meters from the border, eight kilometers east of "Orel" Border post, three kilometers southeast of Kraynovo village (N4201E2651) in a woodland called "Belata Voda"; there are several small streams in the woodland between "Orel" and "Sinchets" border posts;

(2) Complement, 25 men in three squads;

(3) Commander, First Lieutenant KHRISTEV - [REDACTED]

25X1

(4) Armament included three "M-34" light machine guns, 12 "Shpagin" submachine guns and 10 "Vintovka" rifles.

## c. Border Guard Zastava "Bor":

(1) Located 1,500 meters from the border, 4 kilometers east of "Sinchets" border post in the woodland called "Shalaka Bayur"; there are open fields and woods between "Sinchets" and "Bor" border posts;

(2) Complement, 25 men in three squads;

(3) Commander, First Lieutenant KATIROV - [REDACTED]

25X1

(4) Armament included three "M-34" light machine guns, 12 "Shpagin" submachine guns and 10 "Vintovka" rifles.

## d. Border Guard Zastava "Sokol" :

(1) Located 5 kilometers east of "Bor" border post and directly south of Strandzha village (N4203E2658); there are woods between "Bor" and "Sokol" border posts;

(2) Complement, 50 men in three squads;

(3) Armament included three "M-34" light machine guns, 22 "Shpagin" submachine guns and 25 "Vintovka" rifles.

Patrol Procedure of Border Guard Komandatura. [REDACTED]

25X1

30. Every soldier at the border posts has four hours patrol in each 24 hours. Watches are 0000-0400, 0400-0800, 0800-1200, 1200-1600, 1600-2000, and 2000-2400. Watch lists are assigned every day at 2000 hours.

31. A two-man patrol is issued the following:

a. One "Shpagin" submachine gun and 140 cartridges;

b. One "Vintovka" rifle with 60 cartridges;

c. Two grenades (one each);

d. During the day, one pair of Soviet or German-made binoculars; and

e. At night, a flare case containing three red, three blue, three green and three white flares.

32. Recognition signals, password, signal flare color and patrol route are assigned before each watch.

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33. Stationary guards arriving to relieve the guards on duty signal them by striking their rifle butt or cartridge belt once or twice (according to the order of the day) followed by the password. The two stationary guards secrete themselves 10-15 feet apart usually near streams, crossroads and along paths leading to the border.
34. Patrols make a single tour to the post boundary in a 4 hour watch. They do not make contact with the patrol of the adjacent post. One of the 2-man patrol precedes the other to 200-300 meters. They do not approach closer than 300 meters to the border.
35. Dogs are not used for patrols. There is one dog at Komandatura headquarters in Voden under the charge of a corporal.
36. In addition to patrol duty, Border Guard zastava soldiers have one hour of close order drill, one hour of firing practice at full length and chest targets at 200-300 meters, and one hour of political indoctrination daily.

Intercommunication System Border Guard Komandatura. [redacted]

25X1

37. "Sinchets" border post is connected by telephone with Komandatura headquarters in Voden and with "Bor" border post.
38. "Sokol" border post is connected by telephone with the People's Council in Strandzha village and with "Bor" border post.
39. "Bor" border post is connected by telephone with "Sinchets" and "Sokol" border posts.
40. "Orel" border post is connected by telephone with the People's Council of Golyamo Sharkovo village and with Komandatura headquarters in Voden.
41. There are no radios or wireless sets in the border posts.
42. Only the border post commander and the officer on duty are allowed to use the telephone.

Auxiliary Forces of Border Guard Units

43. In every village near the border there is a "DS" group. They are composed of reliable members of the Communist Party under the leadership of the chief of the People's Council.
44. These groups are in contact with the Area Security Officers.
45. Each member of the group is armed with a "Manlicher" rifle.
46. The main function of these groups is to intercept border crossers.

DSNM in Border Guard Komandatura. [redacted]

25X1

47. There are DSNM groups in the "Orel", "Sinchets," "Bor" and "Sokol" Border Guard Zastavas. Each group has a committee of five. Every soldier at these stations is a member of the DSNM.
48. [redacted] the following DSNM officials: 25X1
- a. First Lieutenant (fnu) CHERNOKOZHEV, is in charge of DSNM groups attached to this Komandatura; he meets with DSNM group committees three times a month; and
  - b. Nikola Dimitrov ATANASOV - Secretary of DSNM group at "Sinchets" border post since October 1951; a private; [redacted] 25X1

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50. Each member of the DSNM receives the "Narodna Mladedzh" newspaper published by the DSNM.

"Granichar" Newspaper

51. The "Granichar" (Border Guard) is a 4-page newspaper published in Sofia semi-monthly for Border Guard unit personnel. It is sent to Border Guard Komandatura commanders who distribute it to the border zastava.
52. For 25 men of "Sinchets" Border Guard Zastava, 16 copies of "Granichar" were received. These were given out on loan by the Secretary of the DSNM group for two days. All copies were returned to Sofia after they had been read.
53. This newspaper contains articles on internal and foreign politics, lists of border guards who distinguish themselves and details of border incidents.

Uniforms of Border Guard Soldiers

54. Uniforms of enlisted men are as follows:
- Summer - light green jacket, closed collar type; light green trousers tucked into boot tops; caps with a red star in the center front; green epaulets with red whipping; and
  - Winter - style similar to summer uniforms but of coarse brown material; grey overcoats.
55. Uniforms of officers are as follows:
- Summer - style similar to enlisted men's uniforms but of better quality material; green triangular collar tabs; rank indicated by stars on gold or silver braided epaulets; top part of cap is dark green; cap ribbon is light green; and
  - Winter - style similar to summer uniform but of heavier material; long trousers; blue-grey overcoats.

Pay and Maintenance of Border Guard Soldiers

56. Soldiers in border guard units are paid 4 leva a day.
57. Soldiers in Border guard units are fed as follows:
- Breakfast - 40 grams of white or "Balkan" cheese, 40 grams sugar, tea, and 300 grams of bread;
  - Lunch - one hot dish, generally beans, stewed fruit and 300 grams of bread; meat dishes are served twice a week; and
  - Dinner - one hot dish, stewed fruit and 300 grams of bread.

Length of Service and Leave of Border Guard Soldiers.

58. Soldiers are theoretically on leave from 1500 to 2000 hours on Sundays but are seldom allowed to leave the post to avoid their having contacts with the civilian population.
59. After serving two years, border guard soldiers are given one month home leave.
60. Prior to 30 March 1950, border guard service was 2.5 years. Following that date it was increased to 3 years.  the length 25X1 of service is to be increased to 3.5 years.

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Morale of Border Guard Soldiers

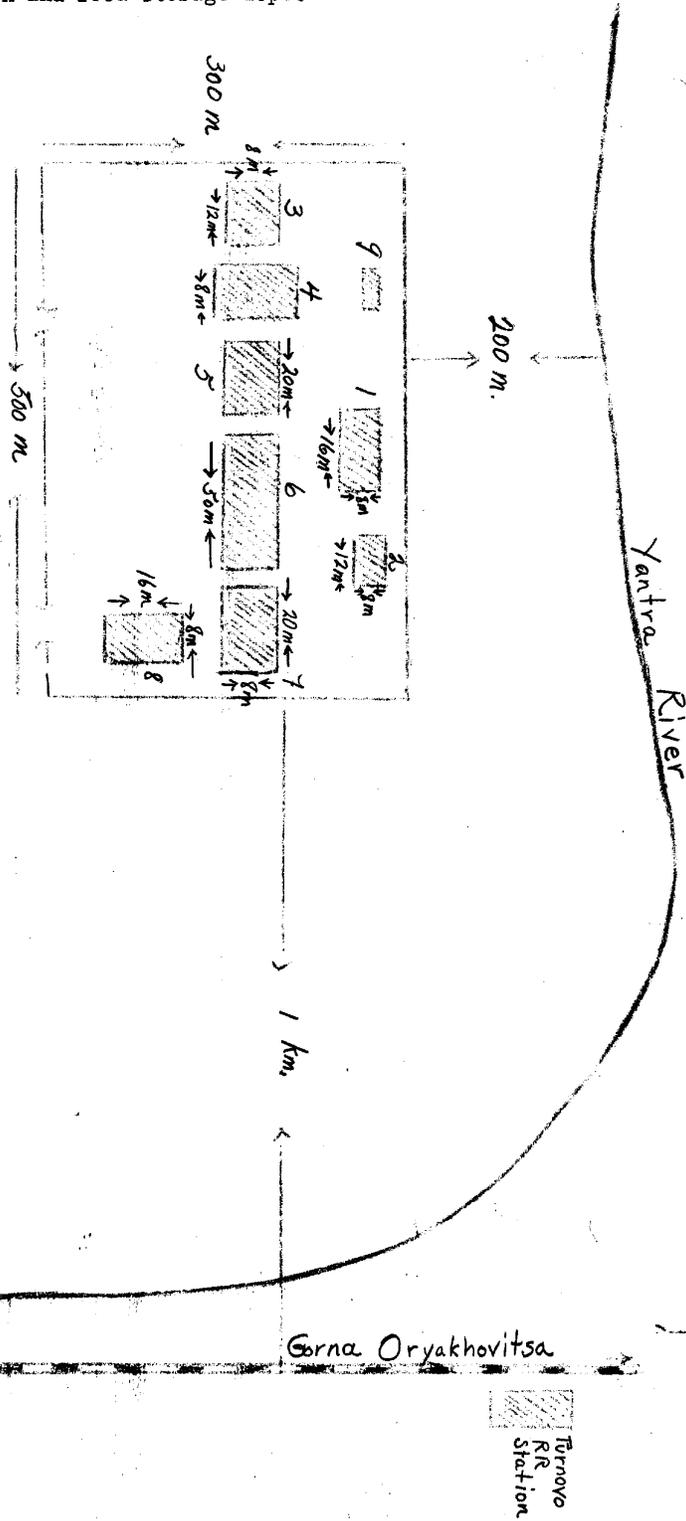
61. [redacted] 50 percent of the border guards have low morale and neither want a war nor would fight willingly if there were a war. 25X1
62. At least six of the guards at "Sinchets" border station are not fulfilling their duties properly. Among these are Stoyan KAMENOV and Gospodin ILIEV. 25X1
63. [redacted] the following statement made by Stoyan KAMENOV [redacted] is indicative of the attitude of border guards: 25X1
- "To capture someone who is escaping means to make an enemy. We do not know what may happen in the future; the regime may change."

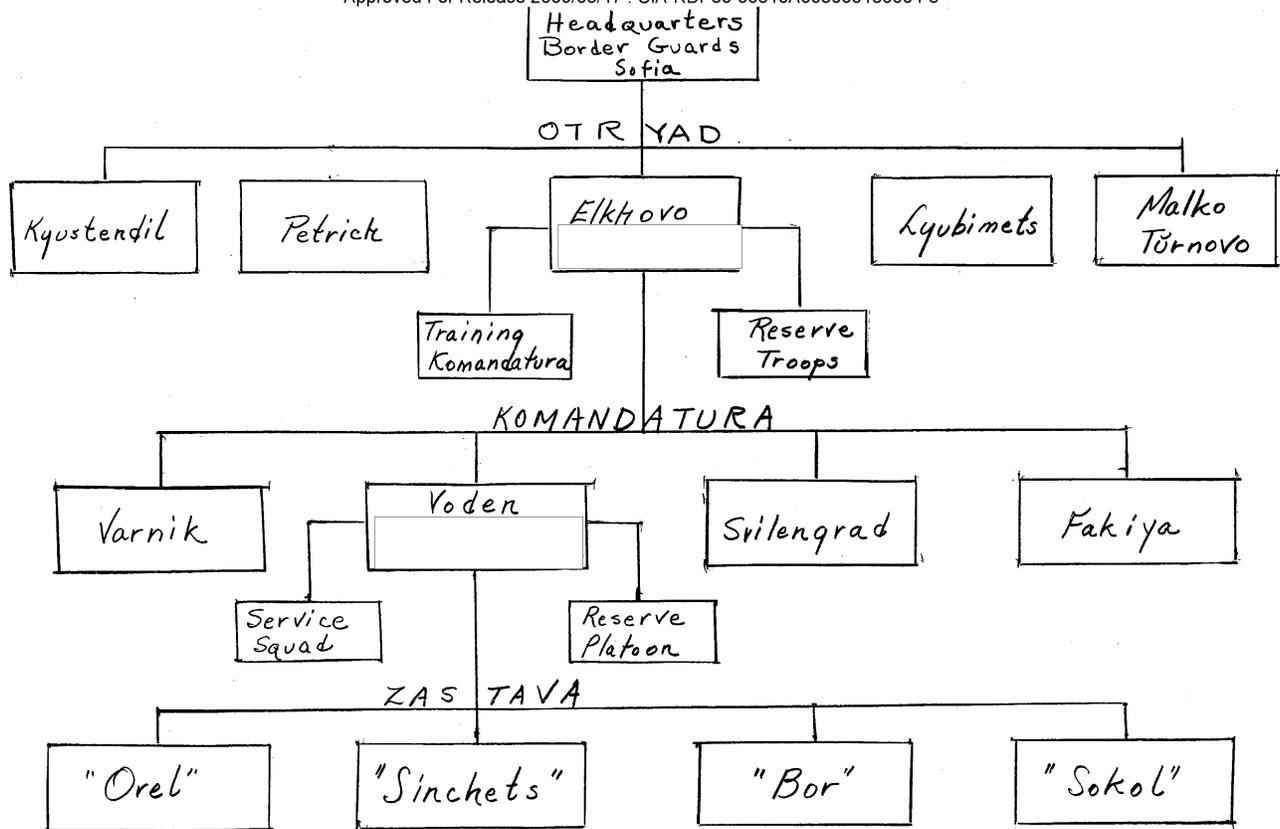
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LEGEND

- 1-3 "Yantra 20" Border Training Komandatura dormitories
- 4 "Yantra 20" Headquarters
- 5 18 Infantry Regiment dormitory
- 6 18 Infantry Regiment headquarters and dormitory
- 7 18 Infantry Regiment offices and dormitory
- 8 Dining hall, kitchen and food storage depot
- 9 Lavatory

18 Infantry Regiment Barracks





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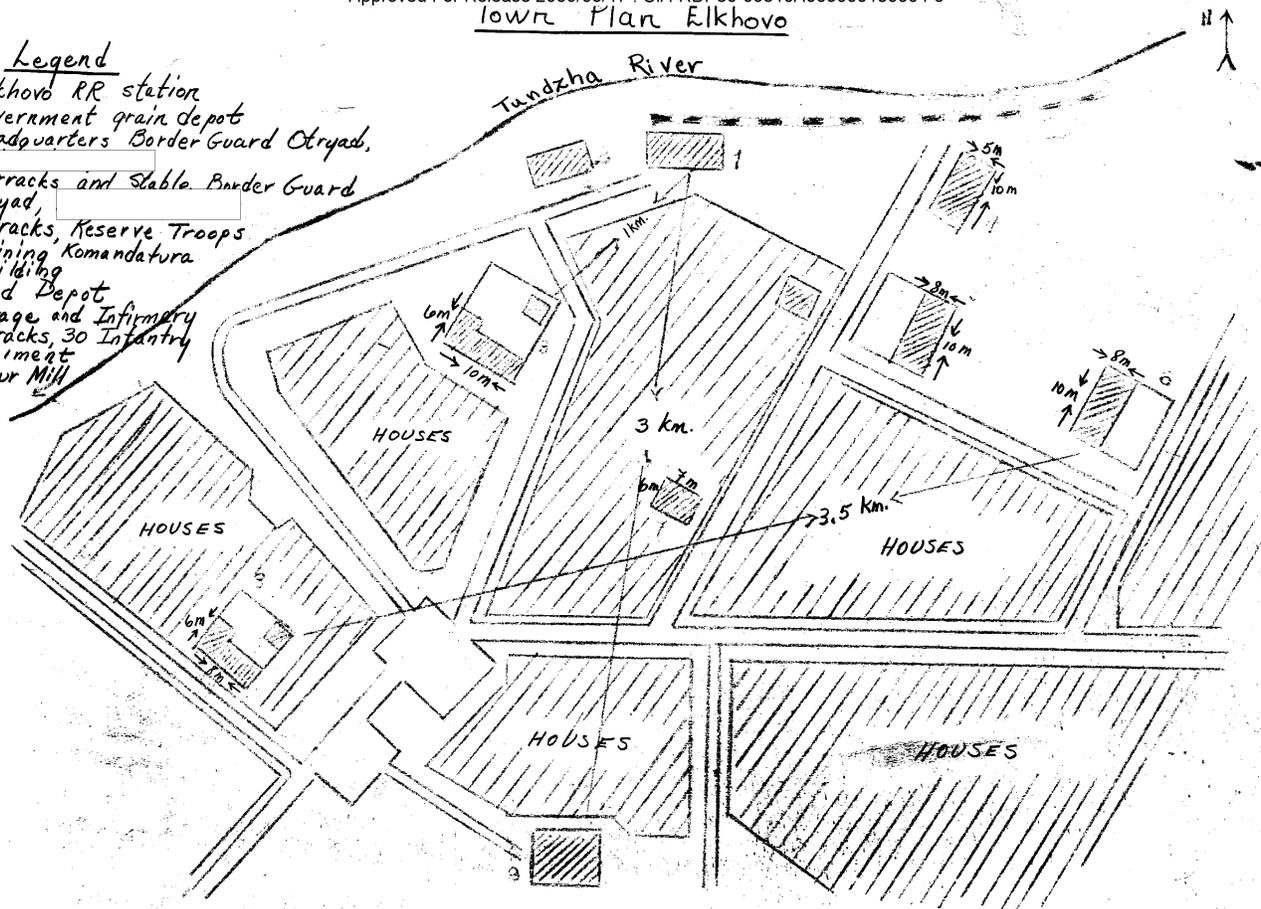
Appendix B

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### Town Plan Elkhovo

#### Legend

1. Elkhovo RR station
2. Government grain depot
3. Headquarters Border Guard Otryad,
4. Barracks and Stable Border Guard Otryad,
5. Barracks, Reserve Troops
6. Training Komandatura Building
7. Food Depot
8. Garage and Infirmary
9. Barracks, 30 Infantry Regiment
10. Flour Mill



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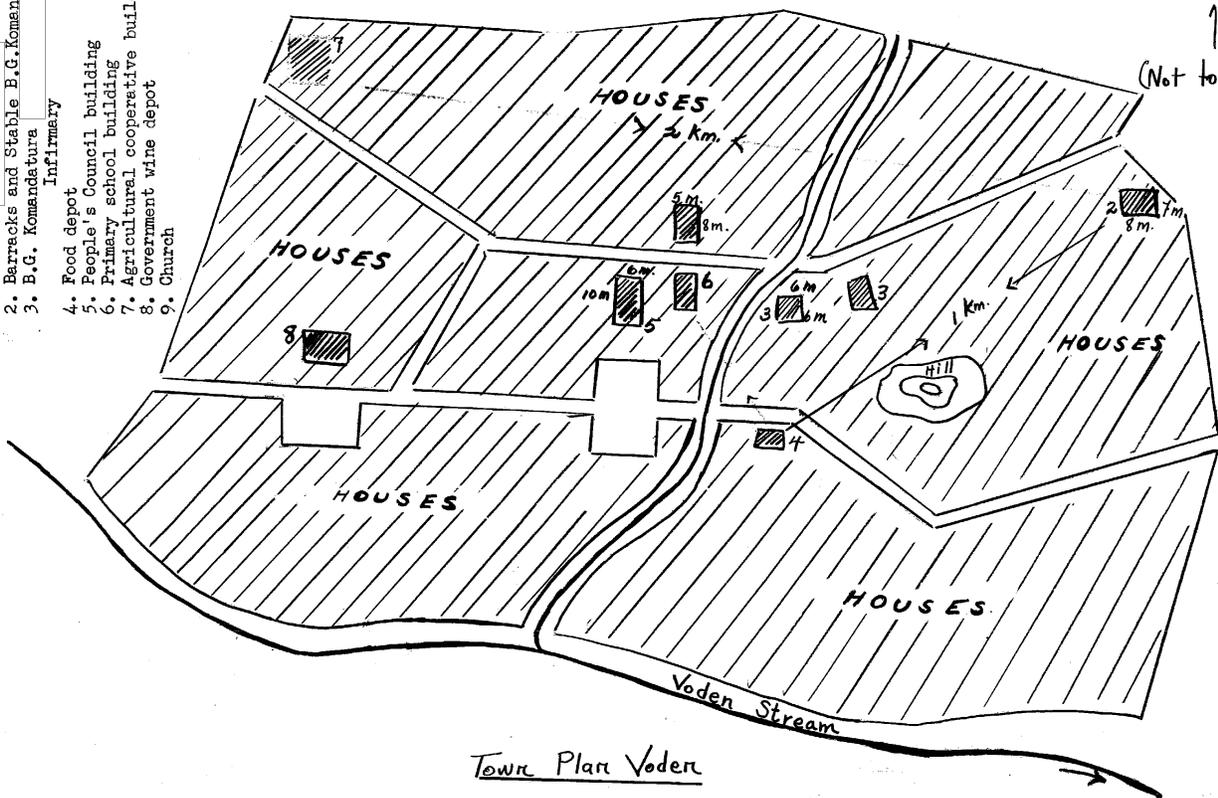
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Appendix C

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- LEGEND
- 1. Headquarters Border Guard Komandatura
  - 2. Barracks and Stable B.G. Komandatura
  - 3. B.G. Komandatura
  - Infirmary
  - 4. Food depot
  - 5. People's Council building
  - 6. Primary school building
  - 7. Agricultural cooperative building
  - 8. Government wine depot
  - 9. Church



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